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excellent. Altogether the work is fair-minded, scholarly, and comprehensive, and at the same time clear, well-proportioned, and reliable. We know of no better book for use in a year's course in the classroom, or even for general reference where very much detail is not required. Almost every subject connected with Church History receives some consideration; nor is it a mere catalogue of subjects, but is complete, readable, interesting, and intelligible as far as it purports to go. CHARLES L. WELLS.

THE LIFE OF JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS. By Robert Lemuel Wiggins. Nashville, Tennessee: Methodist Publishing House.

In spite of the title, only 152 pages out of the 450 are devoted to biography—barely one third—the rest of the book containing reprints of “Early Literary Efforts, from the age of fourteen, as published in the *Countryman*, 1862-1866,” together with a bibliography at the end. Though issued from the press at least six months after the definitive biography of Harris by his daughter-in-law, Julia Collier Harris, this book claims to be the first and only biography of Harris that has yet appeared.

Brief as is the biographical portion of Mr. Wiggins's book, it is padded with long extracts from Harris's early writings, prose and verse, and it sets forth the facts of his life in the perfunctory manner of a doctor's dissertation, without any charm of style. The detailed account of his life breaks off abruptly with the publication of *Uncle Remus; His Songs and His Sayings*, in 1880, and dismisses in a scant page and a quarter the remaining twenty-eight years of literary activity before his death. A comparison of the text of the letters of Harris to Mrs. Starke as given in this book with the text of the same letters as printed by Mrs. Julia Harris reveals surprising inaccuracies and omissions on the part of Mr. Wiggins. Sometimes there is no indication that whole paragraphs have been left out, nor does there appear any special reason for such omissions, especially as the references are often thus made obscure (see p. 96). It is a question, too, whether Harris would relish the idea of having his “Early Literary Efforts” dragged forth from obscurity and exposed to the cold light of criticism. Needless to say, the book will not

bear comparison with Mrs. Harris's biography, nor will its publication greatly enhance the reputation for scholarship and culture long enjoyed by the University of Virginia.

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS RUFFIN. Collected and edited by J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton. Vol. I, Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission, Raleigh. Pp. 541.

This is the first of several volumes in which Professor Hamilton will publish the correspondence, addresses, and some of the more important decisions of Thomas Ruffin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and probably the greatest judge and the most widely quoted legal authority of that state. The present volume comprises Judge Ruffin's own letters and those of numerous correspondents, many eminent in their day, between the years 1803 and 1830. In making his selection the editor has been guided solely by his desire "to choose all such letters as may throw light upon the personality and character either of Judge Ruffin or the writers." The volume is prefaced by a biography of Ruffin, and the work of editing is excellently done by Dr. Hamilton, who has every qualification for the task.

S. L. WARE.

AMERICAN CHARITIES. By Amos G. Warner, Ph.D., late Professor of Economics and Social Science in Leland Stanford Junior University, etc. Edition revised by Mary Roberts Coolidge, Ph.D.; with a Biographical Preface by George Eliot Howard, Ph.D., University of Nebraska. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company. 560 pp. 1918.

This is not only the "classic work on the subject," but perhaps the standard of its kind in any language.

"The changes made by the reviser consist in the instution of more recent figures and illustrations and the addition of 25,000 words of new material. Two entirely new chapters have been added to round out his discussion of poverty."

A full bibliography, authors and subjects, and a good index, render the book convenient for reference.

T. P. B.